

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 NIC-01

TRSE-00 OES-03 /080 W

----- 035973

P R 231100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9950

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

USMTM DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EAID, SA

SUBJECT: SAG EXPRESSES INTEREST IN COAST GUARD SURVEY

REF: JIDDA 0528

SUMMARY: PRINCE NAIF INQUIRES ABOUT POSSIBLE SURVEY OF SAUDI COAST GUARD TO ASSIST FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. PROSPECT OF INCREASING RED SEA TRAFFIC AFTER OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL MAKES THIS SEEM VERY WORTHWHILE PROJECT WITH LARGE COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JANUARY 22 MEETING ON PROPOSED SURVEY OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, DEP. MIN INTERIOR PRINCE NAIF NOTED THAT PRESENT PROPOSAL EXCLUDES COAST GUARD/FRONTIER FORCES, AND ASKED WHETHER THESE ORGANIZATIONS COULD BE INCLUDED IN SURVEY. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT COAST GUARD SURVEY WAS BEYOND EXPERTISE OF PROPOSED TEAM BUT THAT EMBASSY COULD INQUIRE CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF USG CONDUCTING SUCH A SURVEY IN THE FUTURE.

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2. A COAST GUARD SURVEY MAKES GOOD SENSE, AND COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL SALES. ALTHOUGH AVCO IS CURRENTLY FINISHING ITS SECOND YEAR OF A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO COAST GUARD BASES, WE BELIEVE NO SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COAST GUARD EXISTS. COAST GUARD BADLY NEEDS TO IMPROVE ITS SEA RESCUE CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN JIDDA AND DHAHRAN AREAS ADJACENT TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. (CRASH OF ROMANIAN AIRCRAFT AT NIGHT DURING THIS YEAR'S HAJJ REVEALED THAT COAST GUARD HAD NO EFFECTIVE AIR-SEA RESCUE CAPABILITY). MAJOR FUNCTION PERFORMED NOW SEEMS TO BE DAY-TIME COASTAL PATROLLING AS LOOK-OUT FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, PLUS SOME SMALL CRAFT RESCUE CAPABILITY. NEED FOR IMPROVED SEA RESCUE CAPABILITY WILL BECOME EVEN MORE URGENT ONCE SHIPPING RESUMES THROUGH SUEZ CANAL. COAST GUARD ALSO NEEDS TO IMPROVE ITS SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY IN VICINITY OF EASTERN PROVINCE OIL INSTALLATIONS.

3. COASTAL AND HARBOR AIDS TO NAVIGATION ARE AT PRESENT SORELY LACKING. ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF A COAST GUARD SURVEY TEAM WOULD BE FOR A FOLLOW-ON AIDS-TO-NAVIGATION SURVEY. (AIDS TO NAVIGATION ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.) FORMER AID/OPS COAST GUARD ADVISOR JACK CAMPBELL, NOW IN WASHINGTON PROCESSING FOR RETIREMENT, HAS TOLD US THAT CONTRACT FOR INSTALLING COASTAL AIDS TO NAVIGATION COULD EASILY EXCEED ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL WILL ALSO HEIGHTEN NEED TO REMEDY THIS DEFICIENCY, OF CONCERN TO ANY MARITIME NATION USING THE RED SEA AND PERSIAN GULF.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH U.S. COAST GUARD AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE IF U.S. COAST GUARD WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR A DURATION OF SEVERAL WEEKS TO SURVEY EXISTING COAST GUARD FACILITIES AND DRAW UP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION. SURVEY WOULD INVOLVE EXTENSIVE TRAVEL ON BOTH COASTS TO INSPECT EXISTING COASTAL INSTALLATIONS, PLUS CONSULTATION WITH COAST GUARD AUTHORITIES IN RIYADH. WASHINGTON CONSULTATION WITH JACK CAMPBELL, DUE TO RETIRE JANUARY 31, WOULD PROVIDE BEST OBTAINABLE ESTIMATE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURATION AND COMPLEXITY OF SURVEY TASK, FROM WHICH ESTIMATES OF SURVEY COST MIGHT BE DERIVED. REQUEST WASHINGTON INFORM US OF RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. COAST GUARD.  
AKINS

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